



# State of South Carolina

## Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD  
GOVERNOR

Post Office Box 12267  
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June 7, 2005

The Honorable André Bauer  
President of the Senate  
State House, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, East Wing  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval S. 184, R. 164. This bill creates a legislatively driven commission solely for the purpose of developing one specific trail. This unnecessary state entity fragments the responsibility for trail planning that the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism currently fulfills in partnership with various private groups. Further, the legislation gives express statutory authority for the commission to recommend appropriations – increasing the likelihood that, as happened this year, specific trail projects will become line items in the appropriations act. I have consistently laid out that projects such as this should be funded through a competitive grants process to ensure that state dollars are awarded based on merit and not political sway.

To be perfectly clear, I believe that this is a worthy project and one which will likely fare well in the grants process; however I feel compelled to veto legislation that fragments state government and creates a new avenue for regional political favoritism.

The 2005-06 Appropriations Act included \$110,000 for this project through Francis Marion University; however this legislation places the burden on PRT of staffing the commission and maintaining the trail. Therefore, in order to comply with these provisions, the agency would have to create a unique capacity for maintenance outside the borders of state property and divert resources from our already maintenance deficient state parks. Short of becoming the custodian for all of the thousands of miles of trails in South Carolina, PRT has historically done an exceptional job of partnering with private groups to support our state's network of trails. As part of their existing trail program, PRT prioritizes projects through the State Trails Plan and solicits input from a variety of public and private entities and individuals to coordinate trail development. The agency also advises trail builders on the numerous state and federal grant programs that are available for these types of projects.

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In short, this promising project does not require direct state appropriations or a legislatively ordained commission to be successful. In fact, other heritage tourism trail projects in the Pee Dee have been successful without a state statute governing their establishment. The Cotton Trail and the Tobacco Trail highlight the importance and cultural value of Pee Dee institutions – both projects were borne of private volition and successful due to the hard work of dedicated supporters.

For the reasons stated above, I am vetoing S. 184, R. 164.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Sanford', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mark Sanford